International Conference

Art and Architecture in Medieval and Modern Georgia: Historical and Cultural Context

Dedicated to the 85th anniversary of
George Chubinashvili Institute of History of Georgian Art
(since 2006 – George Chubinashvili National Research Centre).

Tbilisi, 25–28 November 2026

Program

Day One: Wednesday, November 25

10:45 am – 11:00 am

Opening remarks: Mariam Gachechiladze, Mariam Didebulidze

11:00 am – 12:00 pm First Plenary Session. Conference Hall. Working language: Georgian

Moderator: Mariam Gachechiladze

Mariam Didebulidze

The Representation of Historical Events in the Iconography of Medieval Georgian Art

Giorgi Khoshtaria

Aspects of Weltanschauung in Georgian Visual Art since the Mid-Twentieth Century

12:00 pm – 13:00 pm Break

13:00 pm – 14:30 pm Second Plenary Session. Conference Hall. Working language: Georgian

Moderator: Mariam Didebulidze

Kitty Machabeli

From the History of Studying Medieval Georgian Art: Davit Kakabadze and Georgian Ornament

Nina Chichinadze

St Anne in Medieval Georgian Art: Iconography, Veneration, and Patronage

Nana Burchuladze

Kings' "Bed Icons" in Medieval Georgian Art

14:30 pm – 15:00 pm Break

PARALLEL SESSIONS

A. Ancient and Medieval Art

15:00 pm – 16:30 pm Conference Hall. Working language: Georgian
Moderator: Marina Bulia

Mariam Gabashvili
Artistic Metalwork of the Late Bronze - Early Iron Age in Racha: Local Features and Cultural Interactions

Irakli Tezelashvili
The Book of the Works of God: The Relationship between Word and Image in the Gelati Gospel

Valerian Giorgobiani
The Repoussé Cover of the Georgian Gospel Manuscript Copied by Theodore of Gareja at the Monastery of Romana

B. Modern and Contemporary Art

15:00 pm – 16:30 pm Room 4. Working language: Georgian
Moderator: Sopio Chitorelidze

Irine Abesadze
History Revealed through a Secret Document, or How Ivane Javakhishvili Saved the Photocopies of Don Cristoforo de Castelli's Sketchbook from Being Lost

Mariam Gachechiladze
The Art of Zurab Kapanadze

Mariam Mikadze
Between Object and Sign: Still Life as a Form of Visual Thinking in the Art of Rusudan Khizanishvili

Day Two: Thursday, November 26

PARALLEL SESSIONS

A. Medieval Art and Architecture

11:00 am – 12:00 pm Conference Hall. Working language: English
Moderator: David Khoshtaria

Nazénie Garibian
Early Christian baptisteries in Armenia: Reassessing the Evidence Through Armenian Sources and Regional Parallels (Georgia, Syria, Mesopotamia)

Ecem Saricayir
Architectural Encounters in the South Caucasus Borderlands: The Georgian Church and Mosque of Doğruyol (Cala)

12:00 pm – 12:30 pm Exhibition Hall. Opening of the exhibition: *Unknown Materials from Tinatin Virsaladze's Archive. Medieval Georgian Wall Painting*

12:30 pm – 13:00 pm Break

13:00 pm – 14:30 pm Conference Hall. Working language: English
Moderator: Mariam Didebulidze

Michele Bacci
Saint George and the Holy Land: A New Reading of the Chazhashi Cup

Marina Bulia and Mzia Janjalia
The Petritzos Miraculous Icon: Origins, Cultural Contexts and Living History

Ivan Foletti and Margarita Khakhanova
At the Edge of the Cold War: Georgian Art and the Geneva Exhibition of 1979

14:30 pm – 15:00 pm Break

15:00 pm – 16:00 pm Conference Hall. Working language: English. Online Session

Moderator: Mzia Janjalia

Barbara Schellewald
The Rhetoric of Images and Sacred Space

Dimitris Liakos
Byzantine Crosses in Mt Athos: A Reassessment

B. Modern Art and Architecture

11:00 am – 12:30 pm Room 4. Working language: Georgian

Moderator: Tsitsino Chachkhunashvili

Irine Elizbarashvili and Manana Suramelashvili
Some Aspects of the Islamic Architecture of Georgia: The Case of Religious Monuments in Samtskhe-Javakheti and Adjara

Maia Mania
On the Identification of a Riverside Wall Fragment in the Kala District

Nino Aleksidze
The Phenomenon of Genius Loci in Georgian Architecture: A Contextual Analysis

12:30 pm – 13:00 pm Break

13:00 pm – 14:30 pm Room 4. Working language: Georgian

Moderator: Manana Suramelashvili

Tamta Shonvadze
The Building of the Second Girls' Gymnasium of Tbilisi: Construction History and Architecture According to Archival Materials

Tatia Gvineria

The Underground Spaces of the Melik-Azaryants House: Rediscovering Tbilisi's Forgotten Cultural Heritage

Ia Kupatadze and Nano (Nana) Zazanashvili

Urban Changes in Saburtalo: The Urban Transformation of Tbilisi through the Case of Saburtalo

14:30 pm – 15:00 pm Break

15:00 pm – 16:30 pm Room 4. Working language: Georgian
Moderator: Tamar Belashvili

Kristine Darchia

The Universal World of Pirosmanashvili Reflected in the "Curved" Mirror of Modernism

Liana Antelava

The Painting of Elene Akhvlediani Through the Lens of Griselda Pollock's Feminist Art History

Temur Kantaria-Jabadari

New Evidence on Soviet Park Sculpture

Day Three: Friday, November 27

PARALLEL SESSIONS

A. Medieval Art and Architecture

11:00 am – 12:30 pm Conference Hall. Working language: English
Moderator: Ekaterine Gedevanishvili

Andrea-Bianka Znorovszky
From Chora (Turkey) to Dirbi (Georgia) and Curtea de Argeş (Romania): Pregnancy in Marian Cycles in a Mediterranean Perspective

Eylül Çetinbaş
The Cult of Saint Catherine of Alexandria in Medieval Georgia: Manuscripts, Icons, and Royal Patronage

Dorota Zaprzalska
Opening the Image: Concealment and Revelation in Composite Icons (13th–16th Centuries)

12:30 pm – 13:00 pm Break

13:00 pm – 14:30 pm Conference Hall. Working language: English. Online Session
Moderator: Natia Natsvlishvili

Yasuhito Fujita
Report of the Field Survey on the Cave Churches in Georgia

Thomas Kaffenberger
Between Anachronisms and Revivals: the "Medieval Idiom" in Georgian Church Architecture During the 16th to 18th Centuries.

Alp Demiroğlu and Cole M. Wagner
A Useable Past: Precedent as Political Legitimacy in Modern Georgian Architecture

14:30 pm – 15:00 pm Break

15:00 pm – 16:30 pm Conference Hall. Working language: Georgian
Moderator: Mzia Janjalia

Nona Shushanidze
The Image of St John the Baptist in the Painting of the Southern Niche of the Skhalta Church

Kakha Chkhaidze, Lela Ninoshvili, and Mariam Kalkhitashvili
Technological Aspects of Using Blue Color in Late Medieval Georgian Mural Painting

Rostom Katchakhidze
Iconographic Parallels in the Illustrations of The Knight in the Panther's Skin*: A Folio from the Wardrop Manuscript and the* Omaniani *Manuscript in the National Library of France*

B. Decorative Art and Crafts

13:00 pm – 14:30 pm Room 4. Working language: Georgian
Moderator: Mariam Gachechiladze

Marianna Oakley
Georgian Textiles: Historical Past and Present. The Art of Nino Kipshidze: Tradition and Modernity

Nino Kipshidze
The Iconography and Modernist Aesthetics of Georgian Folk Pictorial Rugs

Sopio Chitorelidze
Contemporary Georgian Enamel: From the Revival of Tradition to the Emergence of a New Artistic Language

Day Four: Saturday, November 28

A. Medieval Architecture

11:00 am – 12:30 pm Conference Hall. Working language: Georgian
Moderator: David Khoshtaria

Tamta Dolidze
The First Construction Phase of the Ghrtila Church

Elene Tsevelidze
Fragments of the Chancel Barrier in the Church of St George at Dvalta

Natia Natsvlishvili
The Architecture and Liturgical Function of the Water Structure at Gelati Monastery

12:30 pm – 13:00 pm Break

13:00 pm – 14:30 pm Conference Hall. Working language: Georgian
Moderator: Natia Natsvlishvili

Ketevan Abashidze
The Church of the True Cross at Hnevank (Hyune-Vank) as a Reference Point for Dating Twelfth- and Thirteenth-Century Churches

Akaki Skhvitaridze
The Aspects of Architectural Regulation of Natural Lighting in Medieval Georgian Churches: The Cases of Timotesubani and Kintsvisi

Manon Liluashvili
A Variant of the Lily Ornament in Late Medieval Georgian Architecture

14:30 pm – 15:00 pm Break

15:00 pm – 16:30 pm Conference Hall. Working language: Georgian
Moderator: Manana Suramelashvili

Kristine Sabashvili
On the Reliefs of the Khorogo Church

Nodar Aronishidze and Ekaterine Kvachatadze
The Architectural Complex of Arakhveti in the Context of Traditional Mtiuleti Dwellings

Kakha Khimshiashvili
Restoration of Historic Villages: What Do We Try to Preserve? (The Cases of Shatili and Mutso)